Words and Word-Formation Processes

Etymology: The study of the origins and history of a word

1) **Coinage**: is the rarest (least common) source of new words: "The invention of totally new terms". Coinage is mostly invented for **trade names** like jazz, quiz, aspirin, nylon, Xerox and Kleenex

[New words based on the name of a person or a place are called **eponyms**] like Sandwich

2) **Borrowing**: taking over words from other languages. When a language borrows a word, the new word is pronounced according to the sound system of that language.

Some of the loan words in English are as follows:

French: government, jury, judge, court, …
Greek: comedy, physics, zoology, atomic
Dutch: buoy, boss , ….
Persian: caravan, khaki, lilac
Arabic: alcohol, algebra, cipher, zero, …
Turkish: yogurt
Spanish: barbecue, cockroach, guitar

3) **Calque = Loan translation**: is a special kind of **borrowing**. In this process a word is not borrowed whole, but its parts are translated separately and a new word is formed. It means a word is translated into another language morpheme-by-morpheme.German word "Fernsprecher" is a loan translation word, in which the native morphemes "Fern" and "Sprecher" means "far" and "talk" respectively. OR the word "Ubermench" which was formed for the English word "Superman".

English	farsi
Production ceiling	سقف تولید
Blank verse	شعر سفید
In relation to	در رابطه با
See you later	می بینمت
Why not	چرا که نه

4) **Compounding**: We join two separate words to produce a single form. Some English examples would be bookcase, textbook, doorknob.

5) **Shortening**: there are several ways of shortening words and phrases to create new words from old ones. Shortening processes are: **Clipping**, **backformation**, **blending**, **acronym** and **abbreviation**.

A) **Clipping**: this occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form, often in casual speech. Common examples are [ad, bus, plane, prof, info, flu, gym, telly, bike, math, phone, vet]

B) **Backformation**: A word of one type (usually) a noun is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb). A short word is created from a longer word on the basis of similarities between the longer words and other words in the language. For example the word "editor" existed in the lexicon of English long before the word "edit". Comparing the word editor to other words such as "writer", "singer", and "worker", English speakers assumed that, just as writer, singer and worker consisted of the two morphemes each, editor must also have two morphemes: edit + er. So the word "edit" entered the lexicon of English. Some examples are: [television – televise], [enthusiasm – enthuse], [peddler – peddle], [option – opt], [burglars – burgle]…

C) **Blending** (portmanteau word): taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word. [brunch = breakfast + lunch], [motel = motor + hotel], [telecast = television + broadcast], [chunnel = channel + tunnel], [camcorder = camera + recorder], [smog = smoke + fog], [gasohol = gas + alcohol]

D) **Acronym**: Acronyms are the result of forming a word from the first letter or letters of each word in a phrase, often the title of an organization: [= NASA], [AIDS]. *Try not to confuse acronyms and abbreviations. Acronyms are pronounced as a whole word, but abbreviations are pronounced letter by letter.*

6) **Conversion**: When a noun comes to be used as a verb (without any reduction) is generally known as conversion. Other labels for this very common process are **category change** and **functional shift.** A number of nouns such as "paper", "butter", "can", via the process of conversion, come to be used as verbs, as in the following examples:

He's **papering** the wall.

Have you **buttered** the toast?

7) **Derivation**: (The most common word formation process): The production of a word by adding affixes (prefixes and suffixes).

8) Broadening: (when a specific term gain a more general meaning)

Holy day (a religious feast)	holiday (general break from work)
Foda (fodder for animals)	food (a general term)
Dog (a specific breed)	dog (any dog)

9) **Narrowing**: (when a general term gain a more specific meaning)

Hund (any dog)	hound (a specific kind of dog)
Mete(any kind of food)	meat (flesh of animals)
Wife (any women)	wife (married women)

Test (chapter 6)

1) In English there is a tendency that under certain circumstances words such as "gasoline", "advertisement", "professor" are reduced to "gas", "ad", and "prof". This process is ---.
a. acronym
b. back-formation
c. conversion
d. clipping

2) "Suitcase" is the result of ---.
a. backformation
b. blending
c. compounding
d. conversion

3) The new English words "smog" and "gasohol" are instances of --- process.
a. blending
b. borrowing
c. compounding
d. coinage

4) The combining of two separate forms to produce a single new term is called ---.
a. coinage
b. calque
c. blending
d. compounding

5) The reduction of a word of more than one syllable to a shorter one, often in casual speech is called ---.
a. backformation
b. conversion
c. calque
d. clipping

6) The word formation processes involved in using the word "snowball" as a verb are ---.
a. compounding-conversion
b. derivation-loan translation
c. functional shift- blending
d. clipping- backformation

7) The words "televise" and "edit" are examples of ---.
a. conversion
b. derivation
c. backformation
d. clipping

8) A change in the function of a word is generally known as ---.
a. clipping
b. backformation
c. conversion
d. derivation

9) Which of the following words is NOT the product of the process of blending?
a. gasohol
b. smog
c. brunch
d. hotel

10) The invention of totally new terms in a language is called ---.
a. calque
b. conversion
c. clipping
d. coinage

11) The process through which the word "editor" as a noun changes to "edit" and is used as a verb is called ---.

a. conversion
b. derivation
c. blending
d. backformation

12) The words "Xerox", "هما", "motel" are examples of --- respectively.

a. coinage-acronym-blending
b. blending – clipping- calque
c. abbreviation –coinage -compounding
d. coinage-abbreviation- blending

13) The words such as "photo" and "bus" are cases of ---.

a. backformation
b. clipping
c. compounding
d. conversion

14) Which of the following does not belong to the basic processes of word formation?

a. assimilation
b. compounding
c. derivation
d. inflection

15) When a lexical item takes on a new special meaning in addition to its original meaning, this process is referred to as ---.

a. blending
b. borrowing
c. coining
d. narrowing

16) Words such as 'preempt' and 'televise' were made from the existing words 'preemption' and 'television'. The process involved in the formation of the new words is technically called ---.

a. acronym
b. blend
c. back-formation
d. compounding

17) Which word is <u>not</u> the result of compounding?

a. takeover
b. greenhouse
c. earthquake
d. politeness

18) The formation of 'urinalysis' from 'urine' and 'analysis' is an example of ---.

a. blending
b. abbreviation
c. compounding
d. back-formation

19) The word formation process involved in producing the underlined word in the sentence ' Zee described the new toy as <u>fantabulous'</u> is ---.

a. derivation
b. clipping
c. blending
d. back-formation

20) In computer science 'RAM' is frequently used as a/an --- to refer to "random access memory"?

a. clipping
b. blending
c. acronym
d. abbreviation

21) Words such as 'pet' (loved household animal) and 'fan' (devoted follower) are ---.

a. acronym
b. clipping
c. abbreviation
d. blending

22) The new word is currently used as 'footsal' which is reduced form of 'football'' and 'salon'. This process is technically called ---.

a. acronym
b. clipping
c. abbreviation
d. blending